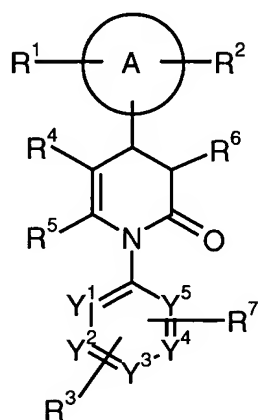


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~Compounds~~ of the general formula (I)



wherein

A represents an aryl or heteroaryl ring,

R¹, R² and R³ independently from each other represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano,

trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or trifluoromethoxy, wherein

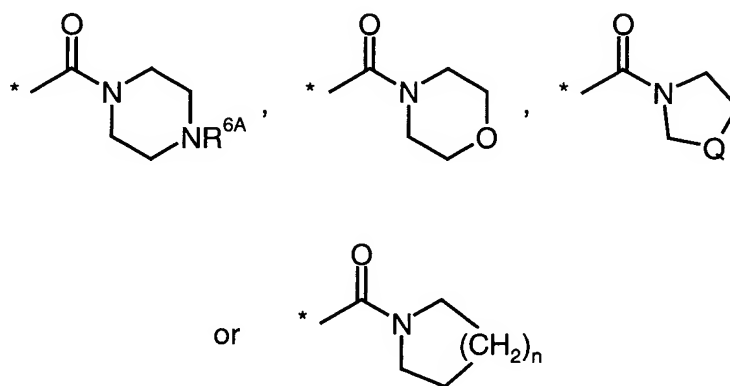
C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

- R^4 represents C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di- C_1 - C_6 -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkylaminocarbonyl, N-(heterocyclyl)-aminocarbonyl or cyano, wherein C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl, mono- and di- C_1 - C_6 -alkylaminocarbonyl can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- and di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylcarbonylamino, phenyl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl, and wherein phenyl can be further substituted with halogen and wherein N-(heterocyclyl)-aminocarbonyl can be further substituted with C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or benzyl,
- R^5 represents C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,
- R^6 represents hydrogen, cyano, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di- C_1 - C_6 -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, N-aryl-N- C_1 - C_6 -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenoxycarbonyl or aryloxycarbonyl, wherein mono- and di- C_1 - C_6 -alkylaminocarbonyl, arylamino-carbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl and C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, benzyloxy, tri-(C_1 - C_6 -alkyl)-silyloxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfonyloxy, hydroxycarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- and di- C_1 -

C₄-alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkylaminocarbonyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, phenyl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl, and wherein mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl can be further substituted with hydroxy or C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

or

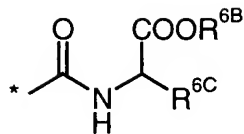
R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein R^{6A} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl, Q represents O or S, and n represents an integer of 1 or 2,

or

R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein R^{6B} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁-C₆-alkyl, and R^{6C} is an amino acid side chain,

R⁷ represents hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or trifluoromethoxy, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ independently from each other represent CH or N, wherein the ring contains either 0, 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms,

or a salt thereof ~~and their salts, hydrates and/or solvates, and their tautomeric forms .~~

2. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to Claim 1, wherein

A represents an aryl or heteroaryl ring,

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 independently from each other represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, hydroxy, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy or trifluoromethoxy, wherein C_1 - C_6 -alkyl and C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy and C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy,

R^4 represents C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl or cyano, wherein C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl, mono- and di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- and di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylcarbonylamino and heteroaryl,

R^5 represents C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

R^6 represents hydrogen, cyano, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkylaminocarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl or C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl, wherein mono- and di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl and C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl can be substituted with one to three

or

*CC(=O)N1CCN(R^{6A})CC1, *CC(=O)N1CCOCC1 or *CC(=O)N1CCCC(C1)C

or

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{*} - \text{C} - \text{NH} - \text{CH}(\text{COOR}^{6B}) - \text{R}^{6C} \end{array}$$

wherein R^{6B} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁-C₆-alkyl, and R^{6C} is an amino acid side chain,

R⁷ represents hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or trifluoromethoxy, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ independently from each other represent CH or N, wherein the ring contains either 0, 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms.

3. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein

A represents an aryl ring,

R¹, R² and R³ independently from each other represent hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy,

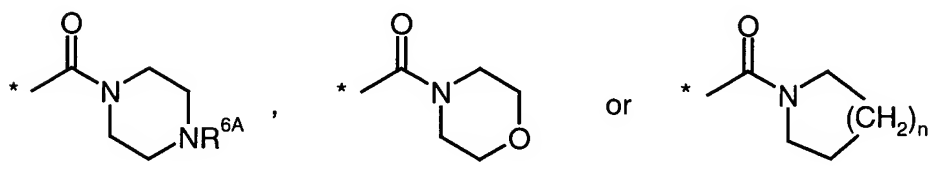
R^4 represents C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl or cyano, wherein C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl and C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl can be substituted with one to two identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, methoxy, hydroxycarbonyl, methoxycarbonyl, amino, mono- and di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino,

R^5 represents methyl or ethyl,

R^6 represents hydrogen, cyano, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl or C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl,

or

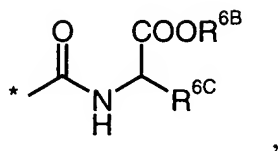
R^6 represents a moiety of the formula



wherein R^{6A} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl, and n represents an integer of 1 or 2,

or

R⁶ represents a moiety of the formula



wherein R^{6B} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl, and
R^{6C} is an amino acid side chain,

R⁷ represents hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, methyl
or ethyl,

and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ each represent CH.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according
to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein

A represents a phenyl ring,

R¹ represents hydrogen or methyl,

R² represents cyano, bromo or nitro,

R³ represents hydrogen,

R⁴ represents C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl or cyano, wherein C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl and C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl can be substituted with hydroxycarbonyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl,

R⁵ represents methyl,

R⁶ represents hydrogen, cyano, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl or C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl,

R⁷ represents trifluoromethyl or nitro,

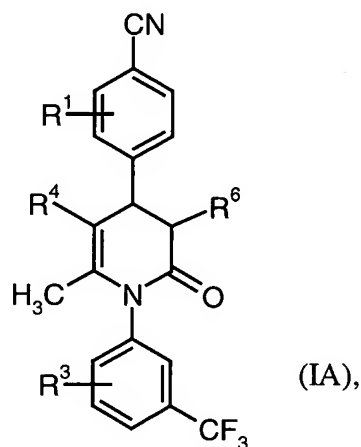
and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ each represent CH.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein A is phenyl.
6. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 5~~, wherein R¹ is hydrogen.
7. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 6~~, wherein R² is cyano.
8. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 7~~, wherein R³ is hydrogen.
9. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 8~~, wherein R⁴ is C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or cyano.
10. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 9~~, wherein R⁵ is methyl.
11. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 10~~, wherein R⁶ is hydrogen, cyano, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-methyl- or -ethylaminocarbonyl, methoxycarbonyl or ethoxycarbonyl.

12. (Currently Amended) The compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~at least one of Claims 1 to 11~~, wherein R⁷ is trifluoromethyl or nitro.

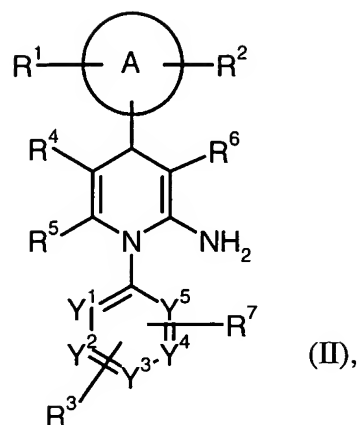
13. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~Compounds~~ of general formula (IA)



wherein R¹, R³, R⁴ and R⁶ have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 12~~ .

14. (Currently Amended) A Process ~~Processes~~ for synthesizing the compound ~~compounds~~ of general formula (I) or (IA), respectively, as defined in Claims 1 and ~~to~~ 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~

[A] a compound ~~compounds~~ of the general formula (II)

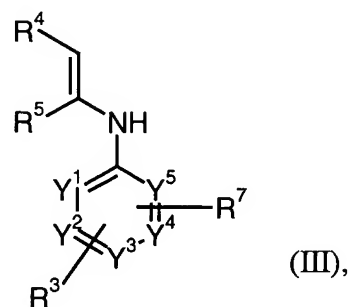


wherein R^1 to R^7 , A and Y^1 to Y^5 have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~,

is ~~are~~ hydrolyzed with water,

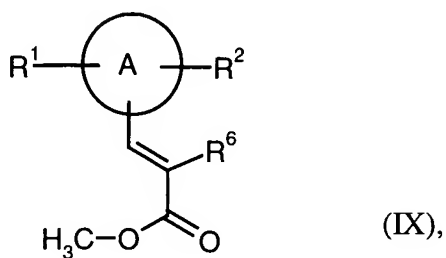
or

[B] a compound ~~compounds~~ of the general formula (III)



wherein R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^7 , and Y^1 to Y^5 have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~,

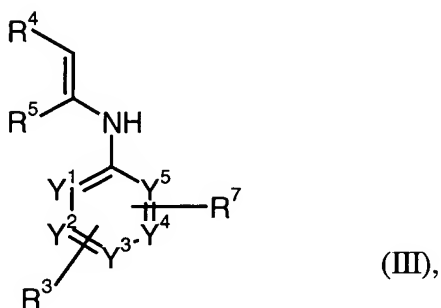
~~is~~ ~~are~~ reacted with a compound ~~compounds~~ of the general formula (IX)



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^6 and A have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ ,

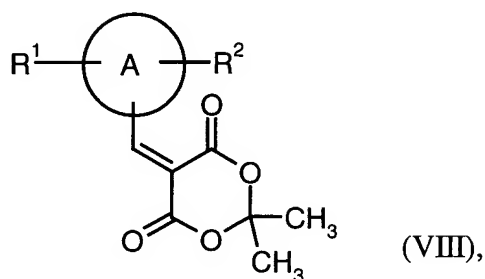
or

[C] a compound ~~compounds~~ of the general formula (III)



wherein R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^7 , and Y^1 to Y^5 have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ ,

are reacted with ~~a compound~~ ~~compounds~~ of the general formula (VIII)



wherein R¹ and R² have the meaning indicated in claim 1 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~ .

15. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical ~~The~~ composition containing at least one compound of general formula (I) or (IA), as defined in claim 1 or 13 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~, and a pharmacologically acceptable diluent.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ process for the preparation of compositions according to Claim 15 ~~and 16~~ characterized in that the compounds of general formula (I) or (IA), as defined in claim 1 or 13 ~~Claims 1 to 13~~, together with customary auxiliaries are brought into a suitable application form.
18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~Process for controlling~~ chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute coronary syndrome, acute myocardial infarction or development of heart failure in humans and animals, comprising administering a ~~by administration of an~~ neutrophil elastase inhibitory amount of at least one compound according to any of Claims 1 ~~or~~ to 13.